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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 20 January 1952, the Alvensleben Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse, Cottbus (N 52/A 57), was occupied by about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The installation has a billeting capacity of about 1,500 troops. Almost no training activity was noticed in the billeting area. \*
2. On 20 January, the main building of the Funker Kaserne on Gulbenerstrasse was occupied to capacity by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia.
3. On 20 January, the Hermann Loens Kaserne on Hermann Loensstrasse quartered about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. The four 20-mm AA guns observed in the billeting area in December 1951 were still seen there. Most of the troops stayed in the quarters, but only a few soldiers were seen walking between the individual barracks buildings.

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4. On 20 January, the Sachsendorff Kaserne on Jahnstrasse quartered about 2,500 troops, including some with tank insignia. Despite the heavy snowfall, about 30 soldiers were seen doing callisthenics in the barracks yard.

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5. On 20 January, the Dissenchen Kaserne, 3 km east of Cottbus, quartered an undetermined number of troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Two groups of soldiers were seen digging what seemed to be gun emplacements east of the barracks installation. No movements were noticed in the billeting area proper.

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6. During the period from 23 to 25 January, the troops in the Alvensleben Kaserne were subject to a strict 24 hours schedule. The daytime duties from 5 a. m. to 3 p. m. consisted of physical training and close-order drill in groups of 12 to 14 men in the billeting area, with only occasional recesses of about 30 minutes during mess calls. The night-time duties consisted of alarm and entraining exercises and road marches. In case of a practice alarm, the troops boarded

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trucks and departed from the installation, returning after about half an hour. No more than five trucks at a time were noticed. In addition, small groups of soldiers were seen leaving the installation in various directions, marching on the double. They were granted only a short break after returning to the installation before being called to duties again.

the squad rooms were lighted.

this round-the-clock training period lasted for three consecutive days and nights. Five 57-mm or 76.2-mm AT guns and 3 x 122-mm howitzers were seen moving into the billeting area on 25 January. Four rocket launchers,

departed from the Alvensleben Kaserne on 12

February. \*

7. the Hermann Loons Kaserne quartered 520 tank troops, excluding officers, on 30 January. The billeting area was completely quiet during the daylight hours between 17 and 28 January, the routing duties during this period were shifted to the night hours from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. Two officers, 7 NCOs and 80 unarmed RM were seen marching from the railroad station to the Hermann Loons Kaserne on 21 January. All troops in the installation were awakened by the shouting of commands and drum rolls at 4. a. m. on 3 February. Troops composed in the following groups were subsequently seen leaving the installation, apparently for a road march: 1 lieutenant colonel, 1 major, 4 captains, 10 lieutenants and 40 men, including 10 without arms; 1 drummer, 5 officers and 55 men; 1 drummer, 3 officers and 50 men; 1 drummer, and 1 officer and 60 men; 1 drummer 1 officer and 52 men. The RM wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and were armed with submachine guns. The drummers were to accelerate the rate of march. The troops returned at 9:10 a. m., with most of the men looking very fatigued. The apartment house on Fontane Platz, north of the Hermann Loons Kaserne, served as billets for 28 officers with signal insignia who worked in the barracks installation. It appeared that Germans were no longer employed in the installation, and not even the fireman was seen. The German charwomen in the officers' billets on Fontane Platz were given notice on 30 January.

\* Comment. The information confirms the Alvensleben Kaserne as still quartering the 692d How Artv Regt and the 441st Cds RL Bn of the 9th Lecz Div.

\*\* Comment. According to the present and previous reports, the Hermann Loons Kaserne is believed to house the Hq 9th Lecz Div, the 999th (?) Sig Bn, components of the 91st Tank Regt and a tank repair shop of the 9th Lecz Div.

The units which, according to paragraph 7 of the present report, responded to the practice alarm on 3 February, may have been two tank battalions of the 91st Tank Regt. The report indicates that the intensity of training in the Soviet Zone of Germany has been substantially increased since January 1952. Analogous information has been received with regard to the troops of the satellite armies and the East German Volkspolizei.

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